

screening agents, compounds or factors for the ability to modulate lineage commitment of a lineage uncommitted cell, wherein the lineage is determined by *mRNA* expression, classified in class 435, subclass 4.

Group III. Claims 18-23, drawn to methods for detecting the presence or activity of an agent which is a lineage commitment factor, method of testing the ability of an agent, compound, or factor to modulate the lineage commitment of a lineage uncommitted cell, and an assay system for screening agents, compounds or factors for the ability to modulate lineage commitment of a lineage uncommitted cell, wherein the lineage is determined by *antigen expression*, classified in class 435, subclass 4.

Group IV. Claim 18-23, drawn to methods for detecting the presence or activity of an agent which is a lineage commitment factor, method of testing the ability of an agent, compound, or factor to modulate the lineage commitment of a lineage uncommitted cell, and an assay system for screening agents, compounds or factors for the ability to modulate lineage commitment of a lineage uncommitted cell, wherein the lineage is determined by *other means*, unclassifiable.

Group V. Claim 24-28 and 31, drawn to methods of transplanting pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells into a host, and methods of prevent and/or treating cellular debilitations, derangements and/or dysfunctions and/or other disease states in mammals, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

Group VI. Claims 29-30 and 32, drawn to methods of preventing and/or treating cellular debilitations, derangements and/or dysfunctions and/or other disease states in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an endodermal, ectodermal or mesodermal lineage committed cell derived from stem cells, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

Responsive to the Requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, with traverse. Claims 1-17, which are drawn to pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, cultures comprising the pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, methods of isolating pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells and methods of producing a genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells.

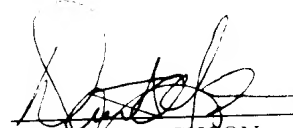
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction, or in the alternative, modification of the Restriction Requirement to allow prosecution of more than one group of Claims designated by the Examiner in the present Application.

The Examiner's assertions to the contrary notwithstanding, Applicants respectfully submit that conjoint examination and inclusion of all of the Claims of the present Application would not present an undue burden on the Examiner, and accordingly, withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be necessitated by the foregoing Response except for the extension of time. However, should this be erroneous, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 11-1153 for any underpayment, or credit any overages.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the Requirement for the Restriction is requested, and an early action on the merits of the Claims is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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